

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF DR. JEFF THOMPSON
FOR BEING NAMED A WHITE
HOUSE HEALTH AND CLIMATE
CHAMPION OF CHANGE

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Jeff Thompson, CEO of Gundersen Health System in La Crosse, Wisconsin, for being honored as a White House Health and Climate Champion of Change. Dr. Thompson is not only a nationally recognized health care leader but he is also a visionary leader in promoting environmental responsibility for health care organizations. This Climate and Health Champion of Change award was given to a select group of national leaders who promote public health through such environmental stewardship.

Dr. Thompson's record of extraordinary leadership starts with Gundersen's core mission of providing high-quality care to patients in western Wisconsin, southeast Minnesota, and northern Iowa. Dr. Thompson has been a leader in developing the type of coordinated, integrated and patient centered care that is the model for the direction we need to move our nation's health care system. His successful leadership can be seen through the long list of accolades Gundersen has received for their quality care and innovation, including being named one of Becker's Hospital Review 100 Integrated Health Systems to Know, winning Healthgrades Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinic Excellence for the 6th consecutive year in 2013, ranking as the fourth safest hospital in the country as measured by Consumer Reports, and being named one of the 100 Most Wired hospitals according to a report from Hospitals and Health Networks magazine. Dr. Thompson was also personally named one of the Top 100 Physician Leaders of Hospital and Health Systems by Becker's Hospital Review last year. The additional honor of being named a White House Health and Climate Champion of Change is further confirmation of the extraordinary role Gundersen Health, under Dr. Thompson's leadership, has taken to improve patient health and promote an environmentally sustainable health care system.

Gundersen Health is setting the standard for how to make health systems environmentally responsible. They are on track to be 100 percent energy independent in 2014. Gundersen partners with businesses and communities to encourage environmentally and economically sustainable business practices and economic growth. They are developing their own energy infrastructure, using equipment owned by the health system, instead of purchasing renewable power at premium rates. This initiative demonstrates their commitment to lowering the cost of healthcare for the people and busi-

nesses that pay for it through socially responsible and environmentally friendly means.

Gundersen has invested in a wide variety of renewable energy programs, including a dairy digester, wind farms, biomass boiler, solar panels, and geothermal systems to provide a diverse portfolio of renewable resources to offer clean, green energy. Those initiatives are all directed toward the goal of making Gundersen the first fully energy independent hospital in the country by next year.

Dr. Thompson has provided national leadership in changing the way health care is delivered in America toward a more quality, value based focus. Combined with his leadership in setting the national standard for promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainability programs within health care systems, Dr. Thompson is very deserving of the White House Health and Climate Champion of Change award. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Dr. Thompson on receiving this prestigious honor.

CELEBRATING THE 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF ST. FRANCIS MEDICAL CENTER

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the St. Francis Medical Center in Monroe, LA. as it celebrates its 100th anniversary. The men and women of this center have dedicated countless hours to help those during times of need, and I am evermore grateful for all that they have done to serve the 5th Congressional District.

On opening day, July 22, 1913, the St. Francis Sanitarium and School of Nursing had four patients and by late September, 193 had been admitted. Named after St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of the Franciscan Sisters, its mission would be to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ to God's people, especially those most in need. A century later, this mission has remained constant.

From its modest beginning as a three-story red brick building with 75 patient beds, St. Francis Medical Center has grown to become Northeast Louisiana's largest healthcare provider with 550 licensed beds.

In addition to the remarkable progression of care St. Francis Medical Center provides to its patients and loved ones, it has turned into one of the largest employers in Ouachita Parish boasting over 2,200 employees and an annual payroll of \$100 million.

As St. Francis Medical Center embarks on its second century of service to our community, I am confident the goal of providing excellent healthcare with love, compassion, humility and respect for all entrusted to them will continue.

It is with deep appreciation for the organization's many contributions to the 5th Congressional District that I rise today to recognize St. Francis Medical Center's 100th year. To say that this group is a source of strength within Northeast Louisiana is an understatement. Bringing comfort and hope to patients and their families is a priceless gift. They have made a real difference in the lives of many, and I commend each individual, past and present, for their admirable service and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in applauding such an outstanding benchmark.

HONORING FIRE CAPTAIN PAUL
MOSES

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Paul B. Moses of the Belvidere Fire Department, and to recognize his years of dedicated public service.

Captain Moses began his career on January 10th, 1979 and was one of the first firefighters to complete Emergency Medical Technician training within the department. Since then he has worked in many different capacities during his tenure. In August of 1983, he became lieutenant and then six years later, in 1989, was appointed Chief of the department, a position he held for the next six years. Over his remaining years he completed his career as both Lieutenant and finally as Captain.

He was a member of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, the Winnebago Fire Chiefs Association, and served on Boone County's 911 Board for over 15 years, serving many years as Chairman. While Chief he was instrumental in upgrading department equipment with the purchase of a new Fire Engine and Ladder Truck. He improved training within the department and was instrumental in the computerization of records.

Most importantly, Captain Moses led from the front, never asking someone to do something he couldn't or wouldn't do himself. He is what you envision a firefighter to be, courageous, dedicated, strong, and passionate about his service.

On July 11th, Captain Moses retired from the Belvidere Fire Department after more than 34 years of sacrifice and service. Captain Moses has played an invaluable role in the Belvidere Fire Department for decades and he will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I wish to express our deepest thanks to Captain Moses for devoting his life's work to protecting and serving his community.

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